

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1848
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2016
Water Quality Testing Laboratories
Sigrwal Shri Janardan Singh

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the criteria laid down for setting up of Water Quality Testing Laboratories (WQTLs);
- (b) the number of such laboratories set up in the country at various levels, Statewise;
- (c) the details of the States where these laboratories have not been set up so far at district level, State-wise indicating the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of the alternative arrangements made or being made for testing the quality of water where WQTLs have not been set up at the district level; and
- (d) the details of the special measures taken and priority given by the Government for providing safe drinking water in rainfed areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

- (a) : Details of the criteria for setting up water testing laboratories such as manpower, space, chemicals, equipments, glasswares and parameters to be tested alongwith frequency of testing at different levels of laboratories etc. have been mentioned in Uniform Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Protocol, which was widely circulated to all the States by the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation in February 2013. In addition, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), has specified relevant IS code in drinking water specification IS :10500, to be followed for testing various parameters.
- (b) : As reported by the States on online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, States have set up total 2223 laboratories (27 State level laboratories, 732 district level laboratories, 1379 Sub district laboratories and 85 mobile water testing laboratories) till 29.04.2016 under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for analysis of rural drinking water quality. State-wise details of water quality testing laboratories are provided in Annexure-I.
- (c). As reported by the States on online IMIS of the Ministry, there are 25 districts in 5 States and in 5 Union Territories which have not reported setting up of district water quality testing laboratories. District wise list of such States/UTs, where water testing laboratories have not been set up so far or not reported, is at Annexure-II, along with reason. Union Territories (UTs), in general, do not report on online IMIS of the Ministry, since funding is provided directly by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (d): The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation has advised the States to utilize the services of nearest district water testing laboratories in case water testing laboratories have not been set up in the concerned district. They may also take services of outsourcing agency for water quality testing till water testing laboratories are set up in those districts.
- (e) : Rural drinking water supply is a State Subject. Power to plan and implement drinking water supply schemes rests upon the State Governments. The Ministry has advised all the States to provide atleast 40 lpcd (litre per capita per day) of safe drinking water in all rural habitations in the country including rainfed areas.

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